

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/933,991	SAHA ET AL.
	Examiner Melanie Jagannathan	Art Unit 2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to interview on 6/22/06.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 7-12, 14-21, 23-27, 29-36, 38-43, 45-52, 54-67 renumbered 1-60.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 20060623.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

- Per interview with Chris Bernard, a proposed amendment to Non-Final was faxed to and considered by Examiner. Claims, as amended, were deemed to place application in condition for allowance.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Chris Bernard on June 22, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended): An apparatus for transmitting a sub-rate data stream over a communication network that uses a selected network protocol, wherein the sub-rate data stream has an associated sub-rate protocol, the apparatus comprising:

a rate adapter coupled to receive an uninterpreted sub-rate data stream and operable to, without interpretation, adapt a rate characteristic associated with a sub-rate protocol to a rate characteristic associated with a selected network protocol to generate an uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream from the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream, wherein the rate adapter comprises logic to determine a stuffing opportunity that indicates an amount of stuffing data of the uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream to be framed in a payload, wherein the amount of stuffing data is responsive to the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream; and

a payload framer coupled to receive the uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream and operable to frame the uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream into a payload for transmission over a communication network using the selected network protocol;

wherein the sub-rate data stream has an effective data rate equal to or less than a data rate associated with the selected network protocol.

2. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a de-serializer having logic to receive a serial version of the sub-rate data stream and form the sub-rate data stream.
3. (Original): The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the de-serializer includes a clock recovery circuit that recovers a sub-rate clock associated with the sub-rate data stream, and wherein the sub-rate clock is coupled to the rate adapter.
4. (Original): The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the de-serializer includes compression logic to compress the serial version of the sub-rate data stream to form the sub-rate data stream.
5. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rate adapter includes a first-in-first-out (FIFO) memory to provide storage for the sub-rate data stream.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 1 ~~6~~, wherein the rate adapter generates a stuffing opportunity indicator that is coupled to the payload framer.
8. (Original): The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the payload framer includes logic to receive the stuffing opportunity indicator and frame the stuffing data into the payload based on the stuffing opportunity indicator.
9. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a network framer coupled to the payload framer and having logic to receive the payload, frame the payload into a network frame, and transmit the network frame over the communication network using the selected network protocol.

10. (Currently Amended): An apparatus for receiving a sub-rate data stream over a communication network that uses a selected network protocol, wherein the sub-rate data stream has an associated sub-rate protocol, the apparatus comprising:

a payload de-framer coupled to receive a payload transmitted over a communication network using a selected network protocol and to de-frame the payload into an uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream that is representative of an uninterpreted sub-rate data stream; and

a rate adapter coupled to receive the uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream and operable to, without interpretation, adapt a rate characteristic associated with the selected network protocol to a rate characteristic associated with a sub-rate protocol to generate the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream from the uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream, wherein the rate adapter comprises logic to determine a stuffing opportunity that indicates an amount of stuffing data included in the uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream, wherein the amount of stuffing data is responsive to the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream, and logic to include the stuffing data in the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream;

wherein the sub-rate data stream has an effective data rate equal to or less than a data rate associated with the selected network protocol.

11. (Original): The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a serializer coupled to the rate adapter and having logic to receive the sub-rate data and produce a serial version of the sub-rate data stream.

12. (Original): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the serializer includes decompression logic to decompress the sub-rate data stream to form the serial version of the sub-rate data stream.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original): The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising clock logic that provides a local clock signal that is coupled to the rate adapter, wherein the local clock signal is associated with the sub-rate protocol.

15. (Original): The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the payload de-framer includes frame acquisition logic to detect a frame marker in the payload.

16. (Original): The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a network de-framer coupled to the payload de-framer and having logic to receive a network frame transmitted over the communication network using the selected network protocol and de-frame the payload from the network frame.

17. (Currently Amended): A system for transporting a sub-rate data stream over a communication network that uses a selected network protocol, wherein the communication network includes a plurality of interconnected network elements, and wherein the sub-rate data stream has an associated sub-rate protocol, the system comprising:

a transmit rate adapter located at a source network element that is coupled to receive an uninterpreted sub-rate data stream and operable to, without interpretation, adapt a rate characteristic associated with a sub-rate protocol to a rate characteristic associated with a selected network protocol to generate an uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream from the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream, wherein the transmit rate adapter comprises logic to determine a stuffing opportunity that indicates an amount of stuffing data of the uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream to be framed in a payload, wherein the amount of stuffing data is responsive to the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream;

a payload framer located at the source network element that is coupled to receive the uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream and operable to frame the uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream into a payload that is transmitted over a communication network using the selected network protocol;

a payload de-framer located at a destination network element that is coupled to receive the payload transmitted over the communication network using the selected network protocol and to de-frame the payload into the uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream that is representative of the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream; and

a receive rate adapter located at the destination network element that is coupled to receive the uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream and operable to, without interpretation, adapt a rate characteristic associated with the selected network protocol to a rate characteristic associated with the sub-rate protocol to generate the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream from the uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream, wherein the receive rate adapter comprises logic to determine a stuffing opportunity that indicates an amount of stuffing data included in the uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream, wherein the amount of stuffing data is responsive to the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream, and logic to include the stuffing data in the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream;

wherein the sub-rate data stream has an effective data rate equal to or less than a data rate associated with the selected network protocol.

18. (Original): The system of claim 17, further comprising a de-serializer located at the source network element and having logic to receive a serial version of the sub-rate data stream and form the sub-rate data stream.

19. (Original): The system of claim 18, wherein the de-serializer includes a clock recovery circuit that recovers a sub-rate clock associated with the sub-rate data stream, and wherein the sub-rate clock is coupled to the transmit rate adapter.

20. (Original): The system of claim 18, wherein the de-serializer includes compression logic to compress the serial version of the sub-rate data stream to form the sub-rate data stream.

21. (Original): The system of claim 17, wherein the transmit rate adapter includes a first-in-first-out (FIFO) memory to provide storage for the sub-rate data stream.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 17 22, wherein the transmit rate adapter includes logic that outputs a stuffing opportunity indicator to the payload framer.

24. (Original): The system of claim 23, wherein the payload framer includes logic to receive the stuffing opportunity indicator and frame the stuffing data into the payload based on the stuffing opportunity indicator.
25. (Original): The system of claim 17, further comprising a network framer coupled to the payload framer and having logic to receive the payload frame the payload into a network frame and transmit the network frame over the communication network using the selected network protocol.
26. (Original): The system of claim 17, further comprising a serializer located at the destination network element and coupled to the receive rate adapter and having logic to receive the sub-rate data stream and produce a serial version of the sub-rate data stream.
27. (Original): The system of claim 26, wherein the serializer includes decompression logic to decompress the sub-rate data stream to form the serial version of the sub-rate data stream.
28. (Canceled)
29. (Original): The system of claim 17, wherein the receive rate adapter further comprises clock logic that provides a local clock signal that is coupled to the rate adapter, wherein the local clock signal is associated with the sub-rate protocol.
30. (Original): The system of claim 17, wherein the payload de-framer includes frame acquisition logic to detect a frame marker in the payload.
31. (Original): The system of claim 17, further comprising a network de-framer coupled to the payload de-framer and having logic to receive a network frame transmitted over the communication network using the selected network protocol and de-frame the payload from the network frame.

32. (Currently Amended): A method for transmitting a sub-rate data stream over a communication network that uses a selected network protocol, wherein the sub-rate data stream has an associated sub-rate protocol, the method comprising steps of:

adapting a rate characteristic associated with an uninterpreted sub-rate protocol to a rate characteristic associated with a selected network protocol, without interpretation, to generate an uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream from the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream, wherein adapting the rate characteristic comprises determining a stuffing opportunity that indicates an amount of stuffing data associated with the uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream to be framed in a payload, wherein the amount of stuffing data is responsive to the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream; and

framing the uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream into a payload for transmission over a communication network using the selected network protocol;

wherein the sub-rate data stream has an effective data rate equal to or less than a data rate associated with the selected network protocol.

33. (Original): The method of claim 32, further comprising a step of de-serializing a serial version of the sub-rate data stream to form the sub-rate data stream.

34. (Original): The method of claim 33, wherein the step of de-serializing includes a step of recovering a sub-rate clock associated with the sub-rate data stream.

35. (Original): The method of claim 33, wherein the step of de-serializing includes a step of compressing the serial version of the sub-rate data stream to form the sub-rate data stream.

36. (Original): The method of claim 32, wherein the step of adapting includes a step of storing the sub-rate data stream in a first-in-first-out (FIFO) memory.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 32 37, further comprising a step of generating a stuffing opportunity indicator associated with the stuffing data.

39. (Original): The method of claim 38, wherein the step of framing includes a step of framing the stuffing data into the payload based on the stuffing opportunity indicator.

40. (Original): The method of claim 32, further comprising steps of:
framing the payload into a network frame; and
transmitting the network frame over the communication network using the selected network protocol.

41. (Currently Amended): A method for receiving a sub-rate data stream over a communication network that uses a selected network protocol, wherein the sub-rate data stream has an associated sub-rate protocol, the method comprising steps of:

de-framing a payload transmitted over a communication network using a selected network protocol into an uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream that is representative of an uninterpreted sub-rate data stream; and

adapting a rate characteristic associated with the selected network protocol to a rate characteristic associated with a sub-rate protocol, without interpretation, to generate the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream from the uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream, wherein adapting the rate characteristic includes determining a stuffing opportunity that indicates an amount of stuffing data included in the uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream, wherein the amount of stuffing data is responsive to the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream, and including the stuffing data in the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream;

wherein the sub-rate data stream has an effective data rate equal to or less than a data rate associated with the selected network protocol.

42. (Original): The method of claim 41, further comprising a step of serializing the sub-rate data stream to produce a serial version of the sub-rate data stream.

43. (Original): The method of claim 42, wherein the step of serializing further comprises a step of decompressing the sub-rate data stream to form the serial version of the sub-rate data stream.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Original): The method of claim 41, wherein the step of adapting includes a step of generating a local clock signal that is associated with the selected network protocol.

46. (Original): The method of claim 41, wherein the step of de-framing includes a step of detecting a frame marker in the payload.

47. (Original): The method of claim 41, further comprising steps of:
receiving a network frame over the communication network using the selected network protocol; and
de-framing the payload from the network frame.

48. (Currently Amended): A method for transporting a sub-rate data stream over a communication network that uses a selected network protocol, wherein the sub-rate data stream has an associated sub-rate protocol, the method comprising steps of:

adapting a receive-rate characteristic associated with a sub-rate protocol to a transmit-rate characteristic associated with a selected network protocol, without interpretation, to generate an uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream from an uninterpreted sub-rate data stream, wherein adapting the receive-rate characteristic comprises determining a stuffing opportunity that indicates an amount of stuffing data associated with the uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream to be framed in a payload, wherein the amount of stuffing data is responsive to the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream;

framing the uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream into a payload that is transmitted over a communication network using the selected network protocol;

de-framing the payload transmitted over the communication network using the selected network protocol into the uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream that is representative of the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream; and

adapting the transmit-rate characteristic associated with the selected network protocol to the receive-rate characteristic associated with the sub-rate protocol, without interpretation, to generate the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream;

wherein the sub-rate data stream has an effective data rate equal to or less than a data rate associated with the selected network protocol.

49. (Original): The method of claim 48, further comprising a step of de-serializing a serial version of the sub-rate data stream to form the sub-rate data stream.

50. (Original): The method of claim 49, wherein the step of de-serializing includes a step of recovering a sub-rate clock associated with the sub-rate data stream.

51. (Original): The method of claim 49, wherein the step of de-serializing includes a step of compressing the serial version of the sub-rate data stream to form the sub-rate data stream.

52. (Original): The method of claim 48, wherein the step of adapting the receive-rate characteristic includes a step of storing the sub-rate data stream in a first-in-first-out (FIFO) memory.

53. (Canceled)

54. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 48 53, further comprising a step of generating a stuffing opportunity indicator associated with the stuffing data.

55. (Original): The method of claim 54, wherein the step of framing includes a step of framing the stuffing data into the payload based on the stuffing opportunity indicator.

56. (Original): The method of claim 48, wherein the step of framing the rate-adapted data stream further comprising steps of:

framing the payload into a network frame; and

transmitting the network frame over the communication network using the selected network protocol.

57. (Original): The method of claim 48, further comprising a step of serializing the sub-rate data stream to produce a serial version of the sub-rate data stream.

58. (Original): The method of claim 57, wherein the step of serializing further comprises a step of decompressing the sub-rate data stream to form the serial version of the sub-rate data stream.

59. (Original): The method of claim 48, wherein the step of adapting the transmit-rate characteristic includes steps of:

determining a stuffing opportunity that indicates an amount of stuffing data included in the rate-adapted data stream; and

including the stuffing data in the sub-rate data stream.

60. (Original): The method of claim 59, wherein the step of adapting the transmit-rate characteristic includes a step of generating a local clock signal that is associated with the selected network protocol.

61. (Original): The method of claim 48, wherein the step of de-framing includes a step of detecting a frame marker in the payload.

62. (Original): The method of claim 48, further comprising steps of:

receiving a network frame over the communication network using the selected network protocol; and

de-framing the payload from the network frame.

63. (Currently Amended): A network element coupled to a communication network to transmit a sub-rate data stream over the communication network using a selected network protocol, wherein the communication network comprises a plurality of interconnected network elements, and wherein the sub-rate data stream has an associated sub-rate protocol, the network element comprising:

a rate adapter coupled to receive an uninterpreted sub-rate data stream and operable to, without interpretation, adapt a rate characteristic associated with a sub-rate protocol to a rate characteristic associated with a selected network protocol to generate an uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream;

a payload framer coupled to receive the uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream and operable to frame the uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream into a payload for transmission over a communication network using the selected network protocol; and

stuffing logic coupled to the rate adapter and operable to determine a stuffing indicator that indicates an amount of the uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream to be framed in the payload, wherein the stuffing indicator is responsive to the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream;

wherein the sub-rate data stream has an effective data rate equal to or less than a data rate associated with the selected network protocol.

64. (Currently Amended): A network element coupled to a communication network to receive a sub-rate data stream transmitted over the communication network using a selected network protocol, wherein the communication network comprises a plurality of interconnected network elements, and wherein the sub-rate data stream has an associated sub-rate protocol, the network element comprising:

a payload de-framer coupled to receive a payload transmitted over a communication network using a selected network protocol and to de-frame the payload into an uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream that is representative of an uninterpreted sub-rate data stream;

a rate adapter coupled to receive the uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream and operable to, without interpretation, adapt a rate characteristic associated with the selected network

protocol to a rate characteristic associated with a sub-rate protocol to generate the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream from the uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream; and

stuffing logic coupled to the rate adapter and operable to determine a stuffing indicator that indicates an amount of data in the uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream to be included in the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream, wherein the stuffing indicator is responsive to the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream;

wherein the sub-rate data stream has an effective data rate equal to or less than a data rate associated with the selected network protocol.

65. (Currently Amended): A network element for switching a sub-rate data stream over a communication network that uses a selected network protocol, wherein the communication network includes a plurality of interconnected network elements, and wherein the sub-rate data stream has an associated sub-rate protocol, the network element comprising:

a payload de-framer that is coupled to receive a first payload transmitted over a communication network using a selected network protocol and to de-frame the first payload into a first uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream that is representative of an uninterpreted sub-rate data stream;

a receive rate adapter that is coupled to receive the first uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream and is operable to, without interpretation, adapt a rate characteristic associated with the selected network protocol to a rate characteristic associated with a sub-rate protocol to generate the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream from the first uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream;

a signal path coupled to the receive rate adapter;

a transmit rate adapter that is coupled to the signal path to receive the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream and is operable to, without interpretation, adapt a rate characteristic associated with the sub-rate protocol to a rate characteristic associated with the selected network protocol to generate a second uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream from the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream; and

a payload framer located at the source network element that is coupled to receive the second uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream and is operable to frame the second uninterpreted

rate-adapted data stream into a second payload that is transmitted over the communication network using the selected network protocol;

stuffing logic coupled to the transmit rate adapter and operable to determine a stuffing indicator that indicates an amount of the uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream to be framed in a payload, wherein the stuffing indicator is responsive to the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream; and

stuffing logic coupled to the receive rate adapter and operable to determine a stuffing indicator that indicates an amount of data in the uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream to be included in the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream, wherein the stuffing indicator is responsive to the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream;

wherein the sub-rate data stream has an effective data rate equal to or less than a data rate associated with the selected network protocol.

66. (Original): The network element of claim 65, wherein the sub-rate data stream is a first sub-rate data stream, and wherein the transmit rate adapter further comprises:

logic to receive a second sub-rate data stream having a second sub-rate protocol, and wherein the transmit rate adapter is operable to adapt a rate characteristic associated with the second sub-rate protocol to a rate characteristic associated with the selected network protocol to generate a third rate-adapted data stream from the second sub-rate data stream.

67. (Original): The network element of claim 66, wherein the payload framer includes logic to receive the third rate-adapted data stream, and wherein the payload framer is operable to frame the second rate-adapted data stream and the third rate-adapted stream into a third payload that is transmitted over the communication network using the selected network protocol.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-21, 23-27, 29-36, 38-43, 45-52, 54-67 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Prior art of record does not disclose, in single or in combination, rate adapter comprises logic to determine a stuffing opportunity that indicates an amount of stuffing data of the uninterpreted rate-adapted data stream to be framed in a payload, the amount of stuffing data is responsive to the uninterpreted sub-rate data stream.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melanie Jagannathan whose telephone number is 571-272-3163. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chi Pham can be reached on 571-272-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MJ *[Signature]*
6/23/06

[Signature]
CHI PHAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
6/26/06